AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

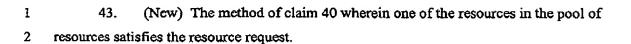
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element consuming the resource.

. 39.	(New) A method of satisfying a resource request in a computer system for
	systems using a resource comprising a combination of resources, the method
comprising:	ystems using a resource comprising a combination of resources, the method
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instar	ntiating in the computer system a configuration instance from a configuration model
	wherein the configuration model includes a defined structural hierarchy of
	elements and a plurality of resources offered by elements in the structural model
	hierarchy;
(a) ex	amining the configuration instance for an element offering a resource in response to
	a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by at least one of the
	elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a combination of multiple
	like resources;
(b) se	lecting the element when the resource has not been previously consumed;
(c) se	lecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no existing
	elements satisfy the resource request; and
(d) re	peating (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the resource
	request.
40.	(New) The method of claim 39 wherein the combination of multiple like
resources cor	mprises pooled resources.
41.	(New) The method of claim 40 wherein each element offering a resource that
includes a po	ol of resources is a structural superior in the structural model hierarchy to an

1 42. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein a plurality of the resources in the pool of resources combine to satisfy the resource request.

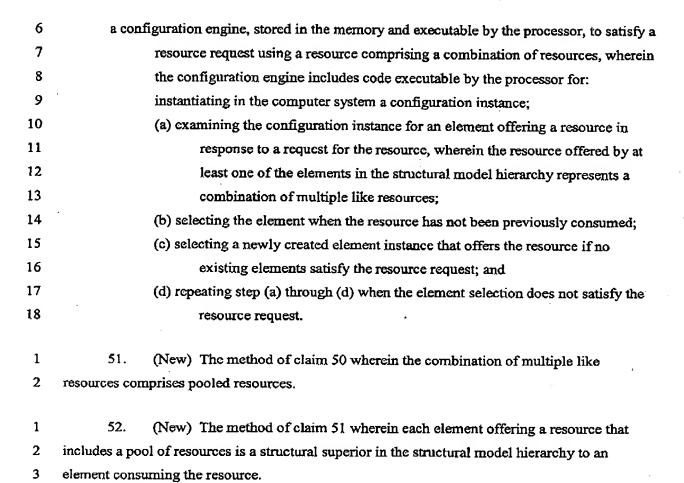


- 1 44. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the element offering the resource 2 includes multiple power supplies whose combined power supply capacity is pooled to provide 3 the requested resource.
- 4 45. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the combination of multiple like resources comprises resources inherited from at least one other element.
- 1 46. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein each element offcring a resource 2 includes resources inherited from at least one other element is a structural superior in the 3 structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.
- 1 47. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein a plurality of the resources inherited 2 from at least one other element combines to satisfy the resource request.
- 1 48. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein one of the resources inherited from at 2 least one other element satisfies the resource request.
 - 49. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the configuration instance is empty when a new configuration is being defined and the configuration instance includes an existing configuration when an existing system is being updated.
- 1 50. (New) An apparatus for configuring systems comprising:
- 2 a processor;
- 3 a memory coupled to the processor;
- a model stored in the memory, wherein elements included in the model are defined in a structural model hierarchy and each of the elements offers one or more resources;

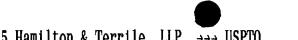
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- 1 53. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein a plurality of the resources in the pool of resources combine to satisfy the resource request.
- 1 54. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein one of the resources in the pool of resources satisfies the resource request.



I	55. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the element offering the resource
2	ncludes multiple power supplies whose combined power supply capacity is pooled to provid
3	he requested resource.

- 4 56. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the combination of multiple like 5 resources comprises resources inherited from at least one other element
- 1 57. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein each element offering a resource 2 includes resources inherited from at least one other element is a structural superior in the 3 structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.
- 1 58. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein a plurality of the resources inherited 2 from at least one other element combines to satisfy the resource request.
- 1 59. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein one of the resources inherited from at least one other element satisfies the resource request.
- 1 60. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein the configuration instance is empty when 2 a new configuration is being defined and the configuration instance includes an existing 3 configuration when an existing system is being updated.
- 1 61. (New) An article of manufacture comprising code encoded therein and 2 executable by a processor to cause the processor to:

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- instantiate in the computer system a configuration instance from a configuration model,
 wherein the configuration model includes a defined structural hierarchy of
 clements and a plurality of resources offered by elements in the structural model
 hierarchy;
 - (a) examine the configuration instance for an element offering a resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by at least one of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a combination of multiple like resources;

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11	(b) select the element when the resource has not been previously consumed;	
12	(c) select a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no existing elements	
13	satisfy the resource request; and	
14	(d) repeat (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the resource	
15	request.	
1	62. (New) An apparatus for satisfying a resource request in a computer system for	
2	configuring systems using a resource comprising a combination of resources comprising:	
3	a processor;	
4	a memory coupled to the processor;	
5	a model stored in the memory, wherein elements included in the model are defined in a	
6	structural model hierarchy and each of the elements offers one or more resources;	
7	means for defining a structural model hierarchy and a plurality of resources offered by	
8	elements in the structural model hierarchy;	
9	means for instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance;	
10	(a) means for examining the configuration instance for an element offcring a resource in	
11	response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by at least one	
12 .	of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a combination of	
13	multiple like resources;	
14	(b) means for selecting the element when the resource has not been previously consumed;	
15	(c) means for selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no	
16	existing elements satisfy the resource request; and	
17	(d) means for causing (a) through (d) to search for another element to satisfy the resource	
18	request when the element selection does not satisfy the resource request.	